

2 NINETY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
3 SECOND SESSION  
4 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 234

5 Introduced by Bromm, 23

6 WHEREAS, at the annual Statehood dinner, held in the  
7 Nebraska State Capitol, the NEBRASKALAND Foundation on Saturday,  
8 February 28, 2004, will present the distinguished Nebraskalander  
9 award, along with the WagonMaster Awards, the Trailblazer Award,  
10 and the Pioneer Award; and

11 WHEREAS, the first WagonMaster Award is presented to Mr.  
12 Tony Raimondo. Mr. Raimondo is chairman and CEO of Behlen Mfg.  
13 Company. He led the effort to complete a successful management  
14 buy-out in 1984 as Behlen experienced major losses due to market  
15 changes and Wickes Corporation emerged from Chapter 11. Mr.  
16 Raimondo has spent the majority of his career in large  
17 corporations, beginning with General Motors upon completing his  
18 BSME Degree in 1962. In 1976 he relocated from New York to Omaha  
19 and spent many years with Sperry Corporation. He has served as a  
20 member and chairman of numerous national and state boards,  
21 especially those associated with the manufacturing industry; and

22 WHEREAS, the second WagonMaster Award is presented to Ms.  
23 Susan S. Seacrest. Ms. Seacrest founded the Groundwater  
24 Foundation in 1985 and has served as its president since that time.  
25 Under her direction, the foundation has grown to become a  
26 nationally known, well-respected voice for groundwater education.

1 Ms. Seacrest's expertise has been recognized by the U.S.  
2 Environmental Protection Agency through her appointment to several  
3 EPA advisory boards. In November 1999 Ms. Seacrest was a speaker  
4 at a water issues briefing at the United Nations and spoke at an  
5 International Association of Hydrologists Conference in Ireland in  
6 2003; and

7 WHEREAS, the Pioneer Award is presented to Mr. Norman A.  
8 Geske. Mr. Geske served as the Director of the Sheldon Memorial  
9 Art Gallery, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, from 1956 to  
10 1983. While serving as director of the Sheldon gallery, he also  
11 taught art classes at the University. In 1968 Mr. Geske served as  
12 the American Commissioner for the XXXIV Biennale in Venice, Italy.  
13 This esteemed honor allowed him to select the art that would be  
14 viewed in the American Pavilion during the Biennale. The Venice  
15 Biennale is considered to be the world's most prestigious art  
16 exhibition; and

17 WHEREAS, the Trailblazer Award is presented to Mr. Benny  
18 Hochman. Mr. Hochman has gone from being a prisoner in a Nazi  
19 concentration camp, enduring untold hardships and horror, to being  
20 a community leader. Following his release from the concentration  
21 camp, he made his way to the United States and was employed by the  
22 former Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. He has been a tireless  
23 community and state supporter serving on many boards over the  
24 years. He has traveled thousands of miles and spent countless  
25 hours telling of his experience in the Nazi camp, always leaving  
26 his audience with the same message: "Don't take freedom for  
27 granted. It is something we need to treasure and protect always."  
28 Benny had his book From Hell to Here published at his own expense

1 with all proceeds going to the Endowment Association for Student  
2 Scholarships; and

3 WHEREAS, the distinguished NEBRASKALander Award is  
4 presented to Mr. Michael B. Yanney. Mr. Yanney is Chairman of the  
5 Board of the America First Companies, which has managed public  
6 investment funds with assets in excess of \$7 billion. Prior to  
7 this position, Mr. Yanney was principally engaged in the ownership  
8 and management of commercial banks. He has done business in the  
9 Soviet Union and Russia since 1976. Additionally, he serves as a  
10 member of the board of directors for such corporations as  
11 Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation, Level 3 Communications,  
12 Inc., Magnum Resources, and RCN Corporation.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE  
14 NINETY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

15 1. That the Legislature extends its appreciation to the  
16 honorees named in this resolution for their service to the State of  
17 Nebraska.

18 2. That a copy of this resolution be given to all  
19 honorees.